the people's instinct. I know there is such a thing as that. There is generally a conflict between the people's instinct and the opinion of experts, and it is to reconcile these two things that Conferences are generally held—Conferences of experts and of people interested in the matters discussed and also of people who possess practical experience of such matters. It is becoming more and more the fashion of all Governments to consult non-official opinion on important matters. I think that is the only possible way by which such reconciliation can be effected, and this Government are doing all that they can in that direction. Another observation you have made is that it is not good policy to take away the initiative from the people in the matter of starting, financing, and developing industries. I quite agree with you there and I believe that that is the policy that I have sought to lay down in my opening speech. In fact, the Government can do much more by way of developing industries and organising them by leaving the initiative of the people untouched and by giving the people such assistance as is necessary to ensure stability to their enterprises and by giving them expert advice and financial assistance as far as possible. The Government do not want to spoon-feed the people. They do want people to stand on their own legs. Whatever encouragement Government can give them will be given, as I have already said, very willingly.

V. PUBLIC WORKS.

53. Grievances of the owners of water-logged paddy fields in the Colachel pakuthi with certain suggestions for their removal, with special reference to the deepening of the Pamburi Voikal.

Mr. T.Raman Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Colachel) represented about the sufferings of the owners of certain fields in the Colachel pakuthi which were submerged under water owing to the silting up of the bed of the Pamburi Voikal due to the high sill level of a bridge across it, and said that though on account of the submergence there were no facilities for raising of crops, Government had not only refused to grant remissions, but had imposed water cess in addition. The Member suggested the following remedial measures :—

(1) the reconstruction of the above bridge with the foundation laid on a lower level ;

(2) provision of cross bars from the bridge to the Neyyur Voikal junction and the complete clearance of the deposit of sand and silt from the Voikal ;

(3) cutting a drainage channel from south to north to the east of the Mulagumood-Colachel road to divert the water now draining into the Chathankara *Ela* through a number of culverts and causing water-logging ;

(4) cutting a drainage *Kal* quite close to the eastern and western tanks within the Chathankara *Ela*, so as to remove the water logging in that *Ela* also caused by the Pamburi Voikal running at a higher level.

The Member also pointed out the injury caused to the salt factories by the submergence of the fields and stated that, if the remedial measures suggested by him were carried out, the factories would be improved.

Dewan's reply,—The P. W. D. are investigating this question. Action will be taken after the investigation is over.

54. The urgent need for irrigational facilities for the western pakuthies of the Eraniel taluk, uncommanded by the Kodayar channels.

Mr. P. Krishna Pillai (Member, Eraniel Taluk) said that the subject had been repeatedly pressed on the attention of Government and had not received due consideration at their hands. He submitted that, in reference to their prayer that a branch channel should be cut and made available for irrigation in the western pakuthies of Eraniel taluk, Government were of opinion that further extension could not be made in the present Kodayar works, unless the existing channels were properly supplied with water. Later on, respresentations were made for the restoration of tanks that had been neglected and had fallen into disuse. As a result of those representations, Government ordered an investigation into the condition of those

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tanks but nothing came out of it. The ryots were not benefited by the Kodayar water, nor were they able to store up rain water for irrigation in tanks, as most of those tanks were in a neglected condition. Frequent droughts and scarcity of water which occurred in consequence caused great distress and heavy loss to the ryots. Besides, on account of shortage of rain in those areas, the ryots were not able to resort to any other alternative crops, and hence severe hardship was being felt by the agricultural population of those parts. The area of wet lands in those pakuthies was 2,156 acres which was nearly one-fourth of the total wet area of the taluk and the receipts of Government on account of tax from that area came to Rs. 13,792 chs. 5 and cash 4. The Member, therefore, prayed that the tanks might be restored and maintained properly, so that cultivation in that area might not suffer from scarcity of water. He submitted that prior to 1083 the maintenance and upkeep of the irrigation tanks of the Division were under the control of the Division Peishkars. With the establishment of the Kodayar Irrigation department, special attention came to be bestowed by that department on lands commanded by the Kodayar channels, with the result that the uncommanded lands were left uncared for, and the rain-fed tanks also were mostly neglected. Under the old Irrigation Maramat deparument, it was the practice to allot every year a certain amount for the up-keep and maintenance of the tanks in the Division and the annual expenditure was about Rs. 5,000 for the Eraniel taluk alone. At that rate an expenditure of Rs. 60,000 should have been incurred for the past 12 years. He prayed that at least a portion of that sum might be devoted now for the benefit of the ryots. The income of Government from the taluk in the shape of water cess and assessment from the commanded area of 5,353 acres 44 cents of old wet lands and 5,171 acres of newly converted wet lands was Rs. 41,550, while the expenditure incurred in maintaining the channels, and other water courses in the taluk was only Rs. 8,000. There was thus a balance of Rs. 33,550. With the conversion of the remaining wet lands of 4,441 acres that surplus was likely to be considerably enhanced. In these circumstances, the Member requested that relief might be given to the ryots by ordering the restoration and maintenance of the rain-fed tanks in their pakuthies. The Member then gave a list of 12 tanks as needing urgent repairs in the pakuthies of Mela Midalam, Kizhamidalam, Killiyur and Nattalam.

Dewan's reply.—The problem of tanks in the uncommanded portion of your taluk is quite similar to the much larger problem of the rain-fed tanks in the Neyyattinkara and Vilavankod taluks. Detailed estimates for the restoration of these tanks have not been prepared. It is one thing to make out an estimate and another to carry out the work. When once the investigation is made and the estimates are prepared, the works should be promptly carried out. Otherwise the estimates require revision and it means waste of the time of the P. W. D. We have taken up Vilavankod and Neyyattinkara first because the problem is acutest there. The investigation made in regard to the Vilavankod tanks discloses the fact that the repair of the tanks is very costly. They cost on an average 50 times the annual revenue. That is an amount of expenditure which no Government can undertake. It will be an expenditure for which there will be no adequate return. I am not also clear as to the custom in regard to the respective responsibility of the ryot and the Government in the matter. The Irrigation Regulation says that the local custom, whatever it is, should be enforced. If the custom is that the ryot should do the work, and if he fails, the Government can carry out the work and recover the amount from him. But it is difficult to find out what exactly the local custom is. When I was at Kuzhittura some months ago, I was told that the custom in both the taluks of Vilavankod and Neyyattinkara was that the ryots should do the work entirely at their expense, but I have since come across some papers which show that the custom in Neyyattinkara is that one-third of the cost should be contributed by Government and two-thirds by the ryots. After finding out what the custom in regard to your taluk is and after ascertaining the average cost of restoring the tanks, the Government and the ryots must come to a practical understanding. Then, something effective can be done. We have offered certain terms to Vilavankod and Neyyattinkara. We have asked the ryots of the latter taluk to state their terms. The list you have given shows that, compared with Vilavankod and Neyyattinkara taluks,

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the problem is not so very acute in your taluk. You must take a comprehensive view of the matter and not each taluk by itself. The works must be taken up in the order of urgency. It is not possible to repair all the tanks in one year or to deal with all taluks at once.

Member.—There are only four pakuthies in our taluk requiring relief. The ryots are poor. An investigation may be made. A portion of the sum allotted to Neyyattinkara and Vilavankod may be used for us.

Dewan's reply.—No sum has yet been set apart.

55. Irrigation system in the Vilavankod taluk, with special reference to the desirability of constructing an anicut at Vannanpara (across the Kodayar) in Kaliyal pakuthi for irrigating lands along the right bank of the Kuzhittura river.

Mr. T. C. Kesava Pillai (Member, Vilavankod Taluk) submitted that, in point of irrigational facilities, his was one of the most backward taluks in the State, and that the people of the taluk had been agitating about the matter for a very long time and had been urging it at successive sessions of the Assembly. He then referred to the Irrigation Conference recently held at Kuzhittura under the presidency of the Dewan and to the terms of the resolutions passed at the Conference in regard to the share of Government and of the people in the matter of meeting the cost of restoration and of maintenance of the tanks in the taluk, and submitted that they should be revised. It was pointed out at the Conference that, according to the custom of the taluk, the obligation to carry out the repairs and maintenance of minor tanks lay entirely upon the people, but that the Government were prepared to show a special concession and contribute $\frac{1}{4}$ of the cost, the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ being borne by the ryots interested. But the Member observed that a reference to G. O. No. 6993A/ P. W., dated the 6th September 1908 would show that, so far as Shencottah and Vilavankod taluks were concerned, the custom was for recovering from the ryots concerned only a portion of the cost of constructing and repairing irrigation works. The Member then referred to the provisions of G. O. No. 2933/L. R., dated the 18th March 1911 which stated that "though the Government are entitled under the law to levy from the ryots the entire cost of the construction, restoration and repair of minor irrigation works the Government are pleased to direct that it will be sufficient to levy half the cost in future in regard to such works as are carried out in the State". The Member contended that, besides the 25 per cent which the Government had already promised to contribute, they should also be given the concession of 50 per cent provided in the above G. O., or 75 per cent on the whole, the remaining 25 per cent alone being recovered from the people. In the light of these observations the Member prayed for a review of the terms adopted at the Conference, as they agreed to them under a misapprehension of the real situation and facts. He also requested that the number of instalments for the recovery of the people's contribution should be increased to 20 instead of being fixed at 5 or 6 as stated in the opening Address.

He next urged the desirability of constructing a dam at Vannanpara. In spite of the fact that the scheme was condemned by experts, he still held that the scheme was worthy of investigation, and prayed for an expert officer being deputed for the purpose.

Dewan's reply.—The Chief Engineer is anxious to find out what exactly your idea is regarding the Vannanpara scheme. Please see him with full details. After interviewing you that officer will say if any further investigation could be profitably conducted. In regard to the revision of the terms agreed to at the recent Conferrence at Kuzhittura, I would refer you to my reply to the previous speaker.

56. Certain proposals regarding the conversion of dry lands into wet under the Kodayar Project.

Mr. M. Bhutalingam Pillai (Member, Nominated) welcomed the appointment of the Special Officer and represented that the following obstacles stood in the way of increasing the converted area under the Kodayar project, *viz.*,

(i) The discontinuance of the practice whereby water cess for the first five years after the conversion was remitted. This remission had been recommended by the late,

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